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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

AMS INSTRUCTION No. 107-4

ACTION BY: All Divisions and Offices

Participation in Operation Alert 1956

I PURPOSE

This Instruction (1) transmits and calls attention to Secretary's Memorandum to heads of Department agencies dated June 19, 1956, concerning participation of the Department in Operation Alert 1956; and (2) sets forth responsibilities for AMS participation in the operation.

II DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION ALERT 1956

Attached to the Secretary's Memorandum mentioned above is an Outline Covering Participation of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Operation Alert 1956. This outline describes the purpose, nature, scope, and timing of the simulated attack, and the documents in which additional information pertaining to the test exercise may be found.<sup>1/</sup> Department responsibilities to be tested are described in Part II of the outline.

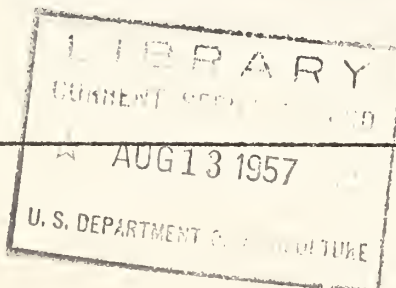
III AMS PARTICIPATION IN OPERATION ALERT 1956

AMS will cooperate with the Commodity Stabilization Service (CSS) in formulating necessary plans for the operation and in developing field instructions relating to food operations.

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<sup>1/</sup> Additional copies of the documents issued by the Office of Defense Mobilization and the Federal Civil Defense Administration which are referred to in the outline should be requested only if a division, office, or field staff is designated in supplementary instructions for active participation in Operation Alert 1956.

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#### IV RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department will carry out its headquarters responsibilities through its wartime organizational structure and will operate at its relocation center, Repoint. AMS responsibilities for the operation are as follows:

A Special Services Division. The Special Services Division is responsible for working with CSS and other AMS divisions in coordinating activities in which the two agencies are cooperating.

B Other Washington Divisions.

1 Personnel will be assigned to the various divisions to function at Repoint. Such personnel will be notified separately of their assignments and responsibilities.

2 Divisions proposing to issue instructions to participating field offices in connection with the exercise should route twelve copies of such instructions, prior to issuance, to the Special Services Division for coordination with other activities. That Division will arrange for a copy to be sent to each Regional Liaison Representative designated in Secretary's Memorandum No. 1398, Supp. 1, to keep the representative informed on all activities in his area.

C Field. Separate instructions will be issued to AMS field offices and field personnel who will participate actively in Operation Alert 1956. A general description of how field offices will function in the exercise is contained in Part II B 2, 3, and 4 of the attached outline. Particular attention is called to Part II B 5 concerning assistance to State and local civil defense organizations.

D Personnel Not Actively Participating in the Operation. Personnel of AMS Washington and field offices not actively participating in Operation Alert will cooperate as required by local civil defense activities relating to protection of people and property. (See Part III of the outline.)

#### V COMMUNICATIONS

A Facilities and Personnel. Arrangements for communication facilities will be made by the Continuity Planning Committee designated in Secretary's Memorandum No. 1346, Supp. 2. Communications facilities and

(V A)

personnel of AMS will be utilized in the exercise, but separate instructions will be issued concerning such use.

B Message Identification. All messages transmitted as a part of Operation Alert will be on a simulated basis. To distinguish such messages from regular business, the first four words and the last four words of each message must be "UNCAP - TEST EXERCISE ONLY."

## VI RECORDS

Attention is called to the record-keeping requirement in Part II F of the outline. Disposition and/or transmittal of such records should be made only in accordance with supplementary instructions.

*O. V. Wells*

O. V. Wells  
Administrator

Attachment

